

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-37 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 21 and 37 are amended by the present amendment.

Claim amendments find support in the specification as originally filed, at least at page 11, line 23, to page 12, line 11, and page 13, lines 9-14. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 21-27, 29, 31, 33-35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,353,596 to Grossglauser et al. (herein "Grossglauser I") in view of Grossglauser, "SEAM: Scalable and Efficient ATM Multicast" (herein "Grossglauser II"); and Claims 28, 30 and 32 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 1, 3-20 and 36 were allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and for Examiner's Response to Arguments.

In addition, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 2, 21-27, 29, 31, 33-35 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Grossglauser I and Grossglauser II, with respect to newly amended Claims 2, 21 and 37.

Amended Claim 2 is directed to an IPATM transmission network that supports multipoint-to-multipoint multi-casting between groups of endpoints. The network includes, *inter alia*, a plurality of nodes and a plurality of endpoints adapted to act as data senders or receivers, and means for building a single spanning delivery tree between at least one sender and all receivers that belong to a multi-casting group of endpoints. An endpoint in the multi-casting group of endpoints is configured to request an address of a core from an MNS server in a plurality of MNS servers. The endpoint is also configured to receive the address of the core from the MNS server when the MNS server is a server responsible for the multi-casting

group of endpoints, and the endpoint is configured to receive the address of the core from another MNS server in the plurality of MNS servers when the MNS server is not the server responsible for the multi-casting group of endpoints. Further, the received address of the core is an address of the endpoint when no core is specified for the multicasting group of endpoints at the server responsible for the multicasting group of endpoints. Claims 21 and 37 include similar features.

In a non-limiting example, the specification, at page 11, line 23, to page 12, line 11, describes an IPATM transmission network according to the claimed invention that includes a host (e.g., endpoint). When the host wishes to become a member of a multi-casting group, the host queries a local MNS server for the address of the core (e.g., request an address of a core from an MNS server). If the local MNS server is responsible for that particular group address, the server responds with the ATM address of the core (e.g., receive the address of the core from the MNS server when the MNS server is a server responsible for the multi-casting group of endpoints). If the local MNS is not responsible for that particular group address, the query is passed between the MNS servers until it reaches the server which is responsible for the group and then this server will reply to the querying host (e.g., receive the address of the core from another MNS server in the plurality of MNS servers when the MNS server is not the server responsible for the multi-casting group of endpoints).

In addition, in the non-limiting description of the specification at page 13, lines 9-19, and at page 14, lines 26, to page 15, line 1, if a query about a group arrives at an MNS server and no core is specified for the group, the endpoint that sent the query will be elected as the core (e.g., the received address of the core being an address of the endpoint when no core is specified for the multicasting group of endpoints at the server responsible for the multicasting group of endpoints).

Applicant respectfully submits that Grossglauser I and Grossglauser II do not teach or suggest a network in which an endpoint requests a core address from an MNS server and receives a core address from a server that is responsible for the group, where the core address is an address of the endpoint when no core is specified for the group.

Grossglauser I indicates that a group handle “consists of the core address plus an identifier.”¹ Further, Grossglauser I indicates that “an ‘initiator’, who may or may not be a future member of the group, will be responsible for defining the core and disseminating the existence of the core to the potential members,”² or a selection of which switch will be the core “can be made by the network itself, typically in the form of a core selection service.”³ In other words, Grossglauser I indicates that a node may define the core, or a core selection service may define the core, but does not indicate any circumstances in which the core address is an address of the requesting endpoint.

Further, Grossglauser I does not indicate that switches receiving a core address request may in turn request another switch to provide the core address if the switch is not responsible for the group. In addition, Grossglauser II does not supply the claimed features lacking in the disclosure of Grossglauser I.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the combined disclosures of Grossglauser I and Grossglauser II, whether taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest

“an endpoint . . . configured to request an address of a core from an MNS server . . . , receive the address of the core from the MNS server when the MNS server is a server responsible for the multi-casting group of endpoints, and receive the address of the core from another MNS server in the plurality of MNS servers when the MNS server is not the server responsible for the multi-casting group of endpoints, the received address of the core being an address of the endpoint when no core is specified for the multicasting group of endpoints at the server responsible for the multicasting group of endpoints,”

as recited in independent Claim 2, and as similarly recited in independent Claims 21 and 37.

¹ Grossglauser I at column 8, lines 27-28.

² Grossglauser I at column 11, lines 23-26.

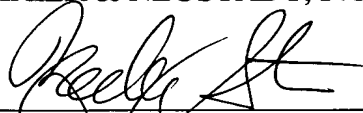
³ Grossglauser I at column 11, lines 30-34.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 2, 21 and 37, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
GJM:ZSS:dnf

Zachary S. Stern
Registration No. 54,719